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Security Council

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Letter dated 15 November 2004 from the Secretary-General addressed to the President of the Security Council

Pursuant to Security Council resolution 1566 (2004), I have the honour to convey the attached report on the steps taken to make the Counter-Terrorism Committee Executive Directorate fully operational.

I should be grateful if this report could be brought to the attention of the members of the Security Council.

(*Signed*) Kofi A. **Annan**

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Annex

Steps taken to make the Counter-Terrorism Committee Executive Directorate fully operational

Report of the Secretary-General

Summary

The present report has been prepared pursuant to paragraph 11 of Security Council resolution 1566 (2004) of 8 October 2004, in which the Council requested the Secretary-General to take, as a matter of urgency, appropriate steps to make the Counter-Terrorism Committee Executive Directorate fully operational and to inform the Council by 15 November 2004.

1. On 28 September 2001, acting under Chapter VII of the United Nations Charter (concerning threats to international peace and security), the Security Council adopted resolution 1373 (2001), by which it reaffirmed its unequivocal condemnation of the terrorist attacks which took place in New York, Washington, D.C. and Pennsylvania on 11 September 2001, and expressed its determination to prevent all such acts.

2. By the same resolution, the Council established the Counter-Terrorism Committee, made up of all 15 members of the Security Council. The Committee monitors the implementation of resolution 1373 (2001) by all States and tries to increase the capability of States to fight terrorism.

3. The Counter-Terrorism Committee has since evolved to assume a more proactive role in the dialogue with Member States, evaluating the implementation of resolution 1373 (2001), facilitating technical assistance to Member States and promoting closer cooperation and coordination with international, regional and subregional organizations.

4. By its resolution 1535 (2004) of 20 March 2004, the Security Council, inter alia, endorsed the report on the revitalization of the work of the Counter-Terrorism Committee (S/2004/124, annex), and decided that the revitalized Committee would be assisted by the Counter-Terrorism Committee Executive Directorate, established under the terms of the same resolution as a special political mission.

5. On 18 June 2004, the Secretary-General appointed Javier Rupérez as the Executive Director of the Executive Directorate at the Assistant Secretary-General level. The organizational plan for the Executive Directorate (see S/2004/642, annex II), presented by the Secretary-General to the Counter-Terrorism Committee, was subsequently endorsed by the Committee (see S/2004/642, annex I) and by the Security Council (see S/2004/642). In addition, administrative arrangements were put in place to facilitate the recruitment of four support personnel for the Executive Directorate. Until the Executive Directorate is deemed operational, it continues to function within the budget for the Department of Political Affairs and with the support of the Executive Office of the Department.

6. The Counter-Terrorism Committee Executive Directorate prepared budgets for 2004 and 2005, which were submitted to the Department of Management on 10 and 28 September 2004, respectively. The proposal for the period from July to December 2004 in the amount of $617,700 included funding for three posts of Professional and above and two General Service posts. Funds in that amount were allocated to the Executive Directorate, within the budget for the Department of Political Affairs, late in October. The budget proposal for 2005 in the amount of $7,747,710, currently under review in the Office of Programme Planning Budget and Accounts, provides for 27 Professional and 7 General Service posts.

7. The requirements for the Executive Directorate for 2004 are being met through the redeployment of resources appropriated under section 3, Political affairs, of the programme budget for the biennium 2004-2005 to support the Counter-Terrorism Committee. As regards the requirements for 2005, the budget proposals of the Executive Directorate for 2005 will be presented to the General Assembly during the first part of its fifty-ninth session, together with those of all other special political missions.

8. To expedite the recruitment process, the Executive Directorate, on 11 October 2004, submitted detailed job descriptions for 33 posts to the Office of Human Resources Management for classification. The initial review of the classifiable category of grade level for the proposed posts has now been completed and the Office of Human Resources Management is currently working with the Executive Directorate to prepare the vacancy notices for evaluation by the relevant review bodies. Once the budgetary appropriation has been approved, the classification advice will be formalized. Meanwhile, vacancy announcements will be issued noting that appointment is subject to the approval of funding.

9. The Executive Directorate approached the Office of Human Resources Management for assistance in expediting the recruitment process with the objective of establishing a roster of suitably qualified, pre-selected personnel as quickly as possible. The Executive Directorate is ready to alert all 191 Member States that vacancy announcements for specialists in areas that include legislative drafting, financial law enforcement, extradition law, customs and border control, technical assistance and administrative support will be posted on the Galaxy System.

10. Other steps taken to make the Executive Directorate operational include the initiation by the Executive Director of contacts with international organizations of primary relevance to its future work, such as the International Monetary Fund, the Organization of American States, the Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe, the African Union, the European Union, the North Atlantic Treaty Organization, the World Customs Organization, the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime and the International Atomic Energy Agency.

11. At the same time, the Executive Director has been invited to participate in various forums, which have provided the opportunity to discuss the efforts of the United Nations in the countering of terrorism and which have helped to put the organization at the centre of the initiatives put forward by the international community.

12. The world expects the United Nations to exercise leadership in the global campaign against terrorism and the Secretary-General, with the support of the Member States and in particular with the support of the members of the Counter-Terrorism Committee and of the various departments of the Secretariat, will ensure that the Counter-Terrorism Committee Executive Directorate is fully operational and ready to respond to the wishes of the international community by January 2005.